

[24th January 1928]

(f) whether any notice has been issued to the owner of the above forest as required by section 29 of the Forest Act; and

(g) whether the Government propose to publish a notification in the *Fort St. George Gazette* and the official gazette of the Madura district as regards the said forest under section 29 of the above Act?

A.—(a) & (b) In the absence of the name of the forest referred to, the Government are not in a position to give the information required.

(c) to (g) The Government are not aware of any such proposal.

Land Revenue

Applications for darkhast lands by depressed classes.

* 1369 Q.—**Mr. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:** Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) how many applications for grants of darkhast lands were received from the depressed classes during the past one year in the districts of the Nilgiris, Coimbatore and Salem and how many of them were already disposed of and how many remain undisposed; and

(b) within what time each application is generally dealt with?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have not hitherto compiled such statistics and are not aware of any record from which the particulars the hon. Member wants could be gathered as applicants for land do not usually declare in their applications what community they belong to. If the hon. Member wishes by his question to bring to notice delay in the disposal of applications from members of the depressed classes it is suggested that his object would be better served by giving full particulars of a few cases so that specific enquiry could be made.

Public Service

Grievances of non-gazetted officers.

* 1370 Q.—**Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:** Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) with reference to the announcement made in this Council last March, by the Government, that while Government were not prepared to appoint a committee of enquiry to report on the scale of pay to non-gazetted officers they would consider individual cases of hardship brought to their notice, whether any applications for redress were received from the non-gazetted officers in North Arcot district;

(b) if so, what concessions were granted to such applicants; and

(c) whether Government have under contemplation the granting of any special concessions to such servants and if so, whether instructions will be issued to the heads of departments to treat the claims of such senior servants to promotion with special sympathy?

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A.—(a) & (b) A memorial was received in one individual case; the request made in it was refused.

(c) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. As regards the second part, the Government have no reason to think that well-founded claims of any class of Government servants receive other than sympathetic consideration from heads of departments and so do not propose to make the suggested exhortation.

Re-entertainment of Messrs. Muthuswami and Krishna Doss in the Registration department of Madura.

* 1371 Q.—Mr. L. K. TULASIRAM: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state with reference to question No. 923 asked at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 31st day of October 1927—

(a) whether M. Muthuswami and A. Krishna Doss, acting clerks employed in the Registration department of the Madura district, are members of the backward classes; and

(b) whether M. Muthuswami had been declared duly qualified for public service under the Public Service Notification in pursuance of the orders passed by the Inspector-General of Registration, dated 17th July 1924?

A.—(a) They belong to castes which, for the purpose of educational concessions in school-fees, have been classed as backward.

(b) Yes: but he had not one year's continuous or two years' aggregate acting service on 16th November 1926.

Reforms

The Statutory Commission.

* 1372 Q.—Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahaṣayo: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government had any correspondence with the Central Government regarding either the personnel or work or both of the Statutory Commission appointed under section 84-A of the Government of India Act of 1919;

(b) if so, whether they will be pleased to lay it or at least such part of it as is not marked 'Confidential' on the table of the House; and

(c) whether the Government of Madras objected to the exclusion of Indians from the Commission?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The answer to clause (a) is in the negative.

Staff Selection Board

Medical certificates produced by candidates applying to the Staff Selection Board.

* 1373 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether candidates who send their applications to the Staff Selection Board are required to produce certificates of physical fitness from Commissioned Medical Officers or Civil Surgeons in charge of a district;